

EPISCOPAL 'MISSAL' BITTERLY ATTACKED

Low Church Publication Calls It
"Un-American," "Illicit" and
"Non-Protestant."

"ROMAN" IMITATION IS SEEN

Effort to 'Pervert' Communion Ser-
vice Into Mass Is Charged—
Official Endorsement Assailed.

The Chronicle, a monthly representing the views of the low church liberals of the Protestant Episcopal Church, attacks strongly in its leading April editorial a new mass book, The American Missal, published recently in Milwaukee. The editorial calls the book, announced as supplementary to the Book of Common Prayer, un-American, non-Protestant and printed "with the express intention of perverting the service of the Holy Communion into the service of the mass in conformity with the Roman use."

At the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Dean Milo H. Gates said the new missal had not been brought to his attention and was not in use at the Cathedral. He said it could not be used in the Diocese of New York without the permission of Bishop Manning.

At the office of Bishop Manning, who is considered as taking a position between the low and high church groups, it was said that no authorization for the book's use had been issued by him. Whether any clergyman in the diocese has asked permission to use it is not known.

The Rev. Dr. Caleb R. Stetson, rector of Trinity Church, known as a High Church party leader, said last night that the American Missal was "a harmless book of devotion largely made up of extracts from the Book of Common Prayer." He said that he had a copy, but had not decided whether he would use it in church services. He did not think it would be necessary to ask Bishop Manning's permission to use it, he said.

Book Called Un-American.

The Chronicle editorial finds the general character of the book "alien to the traditions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States" and "thoroughly at variance with the genius of American Christianity." It takes to task also Dr. Lucien M. Robinson, Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, for certifying that the portions of the missal taken from the prayer-book conform to it.

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book conform to it. "In order to give this illicit publication a factitious currency," the editorial continues, "the editors or the publishers or both by some devious method intrigued the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church to become involved in a very questionable enterprise. Dr. Robinson was recreant to a sacred trust."

The editorial then refers to the title page of the missal, pointing to the wording: "From the Book of Common Prayer according to the use of the Church in the United States of America." It declares that the title page of the Book of Common Prayer carries the words: "According to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America."

"This omission of accurate nomenclature," says The Chronicle, "is for the evident purpose of getting rid of the word Protestant. The reprint of the Communion Service, certain Collects, Epistles, and Gospels, serve rather as points of departure in the midst of 587 pages upon the greater part of which are introduced collects, rubrics, liturgical eccentricities and queer ornamentations that completely defy the orderly procedure of our authorized book of public worship. The provisions for requiem and votive masses completely denature the historic position of this Church."

Authorization Not Claimed.

The editorial says the book declares that it is not an authorized publication of the Church and is supplementary to and not a substitute for the Book of Common Prayer.

"Certain questions press for an answer, the editorial concludes. 'Who are the editors of this liturgical perversion? Who are the underwriters? What connection is there between the trustees of the Morehouse Literature Foundation and The American Missal? What Bishops have protested against it? What Bishops have inhibited its use? What Bishops, knowing that certain 'priests' are using it have either condoned or encouraged this illegal practice?'

"What measures must be taken to inform the Church at large of this unprecedented act of defiance of its teachings and authority? What will be the demands of the rising tide of indignation among loyal church people? What action will be taken at the next General Convention?'

"The Protestant Episcopal Church cannot ignore and will not condone this unparalleled instance of deliberate defiance of its clearly defined authority, its doctrinal and liturgical integrities by a publishing house supported by a small disloyal group of Bishops, 'priests' and laymen."

The Chronicle is published at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., "in defense of the constitutional, progressive character of the Protestant Episcopal Church." Its editor is the Rev. Dr. Alexander Griswold Cummins. It is the official magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Society for the Promotion of Evangelical Knowledge and of the Protestant Episcopal Church League.